

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please amend claims 1, 20, and 40 as follows.

1. A hearing test device comprising:

a testing probe for insertion into an ear canal of a test subject;

a stimuli source for transmitting pre-test stimuli into the ear canal;

a receiver for receiving, pre-test, response signals from the ear canal in response to the transmitted pre-test stimuli; and

a processor for determining, pre-test, from the response signals whether at least one condition related to the position of the testing probe in the ear canal is satisfied, and automatically starting a hearing test after if the at least one condition is satisfied.

20. A method of starting a hearing test, the method employed by a hearing test device having a test probe positioned in an ear canal of a test subject, the method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of stimuli into the ear canal;

receiving a plurality of response signals from the ear canal in response to the plurality of stimuli;

performing, using at least a portion of the plurality of response signals, at least one first test related to the position of the testing probe in the ear canal; and

automatically starting a second, hearing test after if the at least one first test is passed.

40. A method of starting a hearing test, the method employed by a hearing test device having a testing probe positioned in an ear canal of a test subject, the method comprising:

(a) determining whether the testing probe is properly positioned in the ear canal;

(b) automatically starting a hearing test after if it is determined that the testing probe is properly positioned in the ear canal; and

(c) automatically repeating steps (a) and (b) if it is determined that the testing probe is not properly positioned in the ear canal.